

Message Text

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C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 069112

FOL REPEAT LIMA 2417 ACTION SECSTATE INFO SANTIAGO DTD 25 MAR.

QUOTE

C O N F I D E N T I A L LIMA 2417

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: SHUM, PE
SUBJ: PERUVIAN POSITION ON U.S. HUMAN RIGHTS POLICY

REF: STATE 06871;

1. DURING THE COURSE OF A MARCH 24 CONVERSATION WITH
FORIGN MINISTER DE LA PUENTE, THE AMBASSADOR GAVE THE FOREIGN
MINISTER A COPY OF THE PERUVIAN NEWS AGENCY (ESI-ANDINA
REPORT ON PRIME MINISTER ARBULU'S MARCH 14 PRESS CONFERENCE
IN SANTIAGO. THE ESI-ANDINA DISPATCH AS CARRIED IN MARCH 15
PERUVIAN DAILIES INCLUDED THE ARBULU QUOTE REPORTED IN PARA 3
REFTEL BUT DID NOT REPEAT NOT CARRY INTERPRTATION ATTRIBUTED
TO ESI-ANDINA (PARA 4 REFTEL). THE AMBASSADOR INVITED
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DE LA PUENTE'S COMMENT ON THE DISPATCH. DE LA PUENTE
RESPONDED THAT ARBULU'S STATEMENT (EMPHASIZING NON-INTERVENTION,
NATIONAL SOVEREIGNTY, AND IMPORTANCE OF COUNTRIES' SPECIAL SITUATIONS)
WAS AFTER ALL MADE IN CHILE AND REFLECTED THAT FACT.
THE AMBASSADOR ASKED IF GOP POLICY ON HUMAN RIGHTS REMAINED
THAT DESCRIBED BY DE LA PUENTE TO SECRETARY VANCE AND
BY PRESIDENT MORALES BURMUDEZ TO THE AMBASSADOR. DE LA PUENTE

REPLIED THAT GOP POLICY WAS AS PRVIOUSLY STATED, I.E. TO SUPPORT U.S. EMPHASIS ON HUMAN RIGHTS AT THE SAME TIME RECOMMENDING CAUTION ON APPLICATION IN LATIN AMERICAN IN ACCORDANCE WITH VARYING CONDITIONS IN THE DIFFERENT COUNTRIES.

2. COMMENT: ARBULU'S STATEMENT MUST BE VIEWED IN CONTEXT. HE WAS IN CHILE ON A MISSION TO FURTHER REDUCE TENSIONS BETWEEN PERU AND CHILE. HE STRESSED COMMON INTERESTS -- THE WAR AGAINST UNDER-DEVELOPMENT, FRATERNAL TIES, POSSIBLE MEETING BETWEEN THE TWO PRESIDENTS, JOINT INTEREST IN PEACE AND UNDERSTANDING RATHER THEN IN AN ARMS RACE. THEREFORE IN RESPONSE TO A JOURNALIST'S QUESTION HE REFRAINED FROM IRRITATING CHILE AND FOCUSED ON NON-INTERFERENCE IN DOMESTIC AFFAIRS AND RESPECT FOR NATIONAL SOVEREIGNTY. THIS IS CONSISTENT WITH A GOP POLICY OF AVOIDING CRITICISM OF GOC DOMESTIC POLICIES. THE GOP HAS IN THE PAST CLOSED PERIODICALS FOR ENGAGING IN JOURNALISTIC ATTACKS ON THE PINOCHET GOVERNMENT.

3. THE INTERPRETATION OF ARBULU'S REMARKS ATTRIBUTED TO THE PERUVIAN NEWS AGENCY BY FBIS MAKES A NUMBER OF GRATUITOUS ASSUMPTIONS INCLUDING THE STATEMENT THAT THE GOP CONSIDERS "PRESIDENT CARTER'S ATTITUDE INTERVENTION IN THE DOMESTIC AFFAIRS OF OTHER COUNTRIES". THAT COMMENT WAS NOT CARRIED IN PERU AND ARBULU'S REMARKS WERE BURIED AMONG EXTENSIVE COMMENTARY ON WAR AND PEACE. AN EXEGESIS OF THE STATEMENT ITSELF MIGHT REVEAL AN ARBULU EFFORT TO REITERATE TWO SEPARATE PRINCIPLES, THE CLASSIC LATIN AMERICAN ADHERENCE TO NON-INTERVENTION IN DOMESTIC AFFAIRS FOLLOWED BY A STATEMENT THAT THE APPLICATION OF A HUMAN RIGHTS POLICY SHOULD TAKE INTO

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ACCOUNT LOCAL AND REGIONAL CONDITIONS. THE TWO PRINCIPLES SEEM TO BE CONSISTENT WITH STATEMENTS TO THE USG BY PERU'S PRESIDENT AND FOREIGN MINISTER. THE ALLEGED ESI-ANDINA INTERPRETATION OF ARBULU'S COMMENTS WOULD NOT, HOWEVER, BE CONSISTENT WITH THESE STATEMENTS. FINALLY, ARBULU IS KNOWN AS A PROFESSIONAL SOLDIER, NOT A STATESMAN, WITH LITTLE INTEREST IN BROADER POLITICAL ASPECTS OF THE PRIME MINISTER'S ROLE. THEREFORE IT WOULD NOT BE SURPRISING TO FIND SOME DIFFERENCE OF EMPHASIS BETWEEN HIS RESPONSE TO A REPORTER'S QUESTION AND THE CARE-FULLY CONSIDERED HUMAN RIGHTS STATEMENTS OF MARALES BERMUDEZ AND DE LA PUENTE.

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UNQUOTE CHRISTOPHER

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